

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

After the Specification please insert the following Abstract:

**--ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein are cyanide-tolerant nitrile hydratases especially from *Pseudomonas putida* or *Pseudomonas marginalis* strains which exhibit increased cyanide tolerance. Also disclosed are methods of preparing amides from nitriles in the presence of cyanides and polynucleotide sequences coding for cyanide-tolerant nitrile hydratases.--